

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1184
By Sontany

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Dr. Paul Durham for his meritorious service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the churches of Tennessee and the dedicated pastors who lead these congregations are important elements contributing to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those spiritual leaders and their faithful ministries; and

WHEREAS, the late Dr. Paul Durham was one such estimable minister who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, born March 12, 1934, Paul Durham was a Hendersonville native and a graduate of Hendersonville High School; and

WHEREAS, in order to expand his knowledge, Dr. Durham continued his studies at Belmont College and then at Trinity Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 19, Dr. Durham answered the Lord's call to the ministry and began his tenure as a pastor in 1955 at Bledsoe Creek Baptist Church in Bethpage, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, licensed and ordained at New Hope Baptist Church in Hendersonville in 1957, Dr. Durham shepherded the flocks of Grace Baptist Church in Bethpage, Brush Creek Baptist Church in Brush Creek, and Washington Avenue Baptist Church in Cookeville, and for 32 years served Radnor Baptist Church in Nashville with the utmost dedication and ability; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Durham's inspirational leadership, each of these congregations experienced substantial growth, both physically and spiritually; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated servant of the Lord, Dr. Durham was the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Radnor Towers, the Board of Radnor Baptist Academy, the Board of the Radnor Baptist Child Care Center, the Board of Radnor Public and Private Before and After

School Programs for working parents, and the Board of Radnor Baptist All Summer All Day Camp for Youth; he was also the Administrator over 6 Divisional Directors within the Radnor Baptist Church community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Durham lent his talents to the Nashville Baptist Association through his service as the President of the Middle Tennessee Baptist Pastor's Conference, as Moderator, Member of the Executive Board and Trustee of the Nashville Baptist Association, as Chairman of the Christian Life Committee, and as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS, an important and active part of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Dr. Durham served as President and Vice President of the Executive Board, served as Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee, and was a member of the Journal Committee, the Public Affairs and Christian Life Committee, and several Special Committees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Durham also served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee of the Executive Board of the Convention, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the *Baptist and Reflector*, and hosted the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1981 and 1987; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to public service was not limited to religious institutions, as Dr. Durham was also a highly respected member of the Nashville community; he served on the Executive Board of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, on the Board of Regents of Luther Rice Seminary, as a member of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce and of John B. Garrett Lodge #711, as Chaplain of the Cookeville Police Department, and as President of the PTA, the Lions Club, and the Community Club; and

WHEREAS, unswerving in his commitment to carrying out the Lord's ministry, Dr. Durham witnessed to this great Nation as Guest Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives and Senate, as a member of the Citizens Education Group, and at a special conference and prayer meeting with then Vice President George Bush; and

WHEREAS, as an exemplary citizen of Nashville, Dr. Durham served the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County as Chairman of the Traffic and Parking Commission, Commissioner of Traffic and Parking, and as a member of several Committees, including the Employees Benefit Board; and

WHEREAS, a man of the greatest devotion to family, Dr. Durham was most grateful for the love and companionship he shared with his wife Nadene, their four sons, Richard, Steve, Randall, and Mike, and 11 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, an invaluable asset to Metropolitan Nashville and this State, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause to specially recognize the life of Dr. Durham; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the late Dr. Paul Durham of Radnor Baptist Church upon his myriad achievements and salute his meritorious service to the citizens of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.